

## **Safety Sends #1 Be Safe - Make It Home**

As I travel across our Army, I am learning a lot about combat readiness and the impact of losses in our formations. "Safety Sends" is a new initiative as part of the Army Safety Campaign Plan to help keep senior leaders abreast of current accidents and the impact on combat readiness. This first memo will cover FY04 to bring us up to date and the follow-on Safety Sends will be weekly snap shots. The Army's Safety Campaign is in full swing and the plan will be posted on AKO shortly. Detailed statistical slides will also be available on the GOMO site.

Background: We are an Army at War and it is a fast moving train with over a quarter of a million Soldiers moving in one direction or another. In this fight every Soldier and piece of equipment counts. Fatalities continue to rise.... we have two enemies in this war, the hostile human enemy and accidents. Since WWI over half of our losses during war time were due to accidents, not the enemy. As professionals, we study the Art of War in great detail..... with 55% of our combat power being lost to accidents, we must expand our understanding of warfare and fight both enemies.

In last 6 months the Safety Center has made great strides in developing and refining digital tools to attack this undeclared enemy. This is our first step in making the study of accidental losses easier and an integral part of our culture. If you have not been on the Safety Center web site recently, I strongly recommend you take a look. As the Safety Campaign gets traction, first line leaders will be using digital tools in their Risk Management. If you desire a password, just click here, <https://safety.army.mil> then click on Login. This link introduces a new login process for our risk management tools. Army Knowledge Online (AKO) is your single point of entry (single sign-on), which means you won't have to remember another user name and password.

As a point of reference, the Accident Reporting Automation System (ARAS) is the new field reporting tool that will greatly speed up the process of getting data into the system. The Risk Management Information System (RMIS) is an enhanced ad hoc query tool to share data base knowledge with the field. It is very powerful.

The Acting Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Sergeant Major of the Army fully recognize the importance of engaging both enemies. Their video message can be found on the AKO homepage as streaming video. The Army Safety Campaign Plan (ASCP) will be on the street by 15 April 2004. The strategic message is clear; the main weapons against our accidental losses must be leader involvement and accountability across the force. Each of us must commit to the fight and get the message down to the first line leaders and the individual Soldiers. It will not be effective unless we make it personal. Commanders continue to do an awesome job with their main efforts.... small operations with junior leadership is our challenge.

Safety Sends will include summaries of accident trends, details on selected fatalities over the previous weeks and in following weeks we will add supporting vignettes. In addition, I will highlight tools and best practices each week. The goal is to provide each of you additional knowledge and tools for coaching our junior leaders. Safety Sends will be easy to adjust and your feedback will be important.

As part of building your personal tool kit we will provide information on where the tools need to be used and how they were designed to impact our Soldiers. To ensure this information is readily available, we will post it and additional resources on the Army Senior Leader page. We are also aggressively working to get all of the tools on SIPRNET for use in theater.

POV accidents continue to be one of our greatest challenges in reducing fatalities. For this reason I wanted to focus the first *Safety Sends* on the POV module of the Army Safety Management Information System - one (ASMIS-1) effort. It has been on the street for 2 1/2 months and already has 7700 registered users and over 5000 risk assessments on file. We reviewed 109 POV accidents and only found one user who had been in an accident (as a passenger!). The system is connecting with the digital generation. The POV module is an interactive web based risk management tool that takes the user through a step by step trip planning process. The power of the ASMIS-1 POV tool comes from the leader-soldier interaction when reviewing the results of the risk management tool. Throughout the process the user is presented with vignettes detailing good and bad driving habits and their consequences. After users complete their trip plans they are presented with a level of risk and offered the opportunity to change the identified higher risk portions of the trip. When changes are made the user is presented with a new evaluation of their risk level and the system will send an email copy of the risk evaluation to their supervisor. If you really want to make a difference in your formation, make them print out a copy of the soldier's ASMIS-1 POV assessment as a mandatory attachment to leave and pass forms before approval. The ASMIS-1 system can be accessed through the Army Safety Center's web site by hyperlink or directly using this address. <https://safety.army.mil/asmis1/>

The attached information provides a summary of the first and second quarter of this year to bring everyone up to date. In text below is our last 4 weeks of fatal accidents.

From 8 March 2004 to 8 April 2004, there have been a total of 29 reported Class A accidents resulting in 25 fatalities. Of the total reported class A accidents, 26 were ground incidents with vehicle accidents continuing to be the largest killer of Soldiers, accounting for 19 accidents and 18 fatalities. The breakout of selected accidents follows: Eleven Soldiers were killed in POVs, two of which were motorcycles. At least four of the Soldiers in POVs were not wearing seatbelts and one Soldier fell asleep at the wheel. In the last three weeks, three HMMWVs, an LMTV, and an M2 Bradley have experienced roll-over accidents

with six fatalities. There have also been three physical training related fatalities over this four-week period. One fatality occurred during range operations. Detailed bullet summaries of each accident are attached. We also working another potential POV Class A fatal accident and four potential Class A ground accidents.

I know this first Safety Sends is long, but I wanted to get us all on the same sheet of music and share a common operating picture. It is clear we have the right focus on the main efforts; we are not getting it right in our supporting efforts, those small convoys and single ship aircraft missions. We have not adequately prepared our junior leaders who routinely must execute these missions with the right skills, education and access to knowledge to make good risk decisions. Our focus on pre-mission planning, troop leading procedures and pre-combat checks is critical. Thanks for taking the time to hang in there and read this memo. I am at your disposal and will help in any and every way to protect the force as we fight the GWOT.

Joe Smith

**Director of Army Safety**

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**Safety Sends #2 Be Safe - Make It Home**

Within the last couple of weeks I've had the opportunity to participate in both the FORSCOM Safety Council and the USASOC Safety Conference; headed next to the USAREUR Safety Council. You can feel the energy starting to build in support of the Safety Campaign plan! Lots of planned safety activities are ready to kick off across our Army to get the message to the individual soldier. Thanks to those who responded to Safety Sends #1. AAA audit team visited the Safety Center this week to look at POV safety programs and they are now headed to the field. We will update the Acting Secretary of the Army on Monday 19 Apr.

Where we are this week: If we look at an average of the last 6 years, at the beginning of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter we have averaged 96 Class A accidents resulting in 93 fatalities. This year there have been 149 Class A accidents and a130 fatalities. From 9 April 2004 to 15 April 2004 ground accidents continued to dominate our rates as we experienced three Class A accidents: an off-duty drowning, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV) collision and an inadvertent discharge of a Hoffman device. The results: one fatality, one BFV requiring depot level repair, and one potential permanent disability (blinded). From previous week, we have confirmed an additional POV fatality and a fratricide from indirect fires. This brings that week's total to five accidents and three fatalities. Bullet summaries of each accident are attached. We are still working an additional POV fatality and a Physical Training fatality. This is a snapshot from what has been reported.

Tool kit highlight: The Risk Management Information System (RMIS) is a computer-based, risk management tool available to commanders, junior-leaders

and Soldiers that provides real-time information on hazards and control measures for specific operating conditions. Updated daily, this system can be accessed at <https://safety.army.mil> or through the AKO Portal <http://us.army.mil>. The new Ad Hoc Query Tool (Discoverer) enables users to view information from the Army Safety Management Information System (ASMIS) database and provides a logical, intuitive interface for data query, analysis and reporting. This tool is accessible through RMIS by clicking on the Ad Hoc Query link. Tools won't replace good ole' leadership, but will certainly make our officers and NCOs much more knowledgeable of hazards and control measures.

Vignette: Safety Sends #1 focused on the mentoring and educating of junior leaders so they can make good risk decisions. We based this on trends, not a specific accident. Commands that receive an Army level "Centralized Accident Investigation" quickly move to share lessons learned; but to the rest of the Army, it is not even a lesson noted. That's because we don't share the details across the Army and push the lessons to our junior leaders. Thus the dilemma of lessons learned... lessons noted. Each week I will share an accident vignette.... this one is focused on mission planning and troop leading procedures. Rarely do we "just have an accident" there is always more to the story....

In December 03, a platoon experienced two fatal accidents during the same operation. Two vehicles rolled over while conducting tactical combat movement during the hours of dusk, resulting in the drowning of three Soldiers (in a canal) and the injury of another. As we peel the onion skin back on this accident, pre-combat checks were not conducted to standard. One vehicle had a padlock on the primary access door which prevented it from being used for egress. One driver could not use the escape tunnel because improper load planning.....he drowned. Roll over drills were addressed but no rehearsals were conducted. Every soldier and leader knew actions on the objective, unfortunately little attention was given to actions during movement. Additionally, there was no Standard Operating Procedure for transition to NVD operations; crews attempted to transition on the move without detailed planning or rehearsal. This resulted in loss of situational awareness and two separate vehicle roll overs into a canal. To recap: We lost three soldiers and both vehicles to failures in pre-mission planning, PCIs, rehearsals, and lack basic SOPs. Message to our junior leaders.... doing the basics right is our most powerful control measure. Safety is a combat multiplier not a constraint....

Joe Smith  
**Director of Army Safety**